



By Cpl. Bill Putnam, 122nd MPAD

Evan Marriott, famous for his appearance as the first *Joe Millionaire*, hands a camcorder back to a 5th Brigade Combat Team Soldier during a Morale Welfare and Recreation visit to Camp Ferrin-Huggins in Baghdad Aug. 12. Marriott and Miller Lite's "Cat Fight Girls," Tanya Ballinger and Kitana Baker were on hand at the camp's Soldier Center to sign autographs and pose for photos. The trio of celebrities stopped by the camp during their two-week MWR trip around Iraq and Kuwait. Before arriving in Iraq, they toured throughout the Balkans.

## Cav Condemns Criminal Attacks

By Sgt. 1st Class Tony Sailer  
122nd MPAD

CAMP VICTORY NORTH, Baghdad – In the wake of attacks by the members of an outlaw militia, 1st Cavalry Division spokesmen praised the efforts of local Iraqis and condemned the attacks that took innocent lives and hampered relief efforts during a press conference with local Iraqi journalists Aug. 14 at the division headquarters.

"Criminal militiamen are attacking Iraqi civilians. Muqtada's militia is the enemy of the people in and around Baghdad," Brig. Gen. Jeffery Ham-

mond, the assistant division commander for support, said. "One of the worst crimes against humanity is being committed right here, now in Iraq. These crimes are being committed in the holy city of Najaf and also in Sadr City. [The criminals] are doing more than killing innocent people; they are also preventing good people from working for a living."

Earlier this week, criminal militia intimidated workers at the Shark Dijlah water plant in Sadr City. This plant, when renovated, will provide water to more than three million citizens.

## Soldiers Skate their Cares Away in Iraq

By Pfc. Al Barrus  
122nd MPAD

CAMP FERRIN-HUGGINS, Baghdad, – Iraq is a strange place for most Soldiers. From the hot, dry heat to the ever-present dust that settles everywhere. The day in the life of a deployed troop doesn't always include all the right ingredients to make him comfortable, but luckily there are always some things he can do to make him feel more at home.

There sometimes is a special area he goes to enjoy his worldly pastimes. It may be the basketball court: possibly the Internet café. Some places of recreation are found in less likely areas.

One such area lies outside in a corner of the Headquarters Company barracks next to the 5th Brigade Combat Team headquarters on Camp Ferrin Huggins. An I-beam lies on the cracked asphalt; its edges coated in wax. A dismounted handrail put in place by sandbags stands 10 inches off the ground.

The sight might confuse bystanders, until its architects arrive. The sun begins to set and four friends convene with weapons slung as they cling onto wheeled boards before slapping them on the pavement, and this assembly of random objects begins to look more like a crude excuse for a skate



By Pfc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD

Sgt. Chris Geraurd, an Iraqi National Guard trainer in Headquarters Company, 5th Brigade Combat Team pulls off a "grab." He spends a couple hours four times a week skating and in a skate park outside the barracks.

"We didn't have a whole lot to do on our free time at night," said Spc. Joshua Frisbee, a command post operator for Headquarters Company. "So we decided to start skating out here."

Frisbee and three other friends, some who enjoyed skateboarding in Fort Hood, Texas, found the resources to bring something from home to Camp Ferrin-Huggins.

"We have been skating

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## Soldiers Find Home, on Wheels

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here for about two months now," Pfc. Daniel Leamy, a communications specialist said. "We find scrap wood and metal around the camp and make what we can."

Some of them are more skilled at the sport than others. The skilled skaters challenge themselves utilizing an I-beam to perform grinds. They also assist the rookies in perfecting the basic tricks such as the "Ollie," where the skater jumps and positions his feet so the board jumps with him. But even the experienced can learn things from the newbies.

"I have about six years of skating experience," Sgt. Chris Geraurd, an Iraqi National Guard trainer said. "Dawson just started skating, so I teach him how to skate and he teaches me how to play the guitar."

Skateboarding isn't the most popular sport around, and back home some skaters often receive flak for it from authority figures, but it's a different feeling here.

"No one ever gets on our case about skateboarding out here," Geraurd said. "It seems like out here everyone sees it as just another sport: another way to relieve the stress of being away from home."

Home has a different definition for this alliance of skaters, as they all come from diverse regions of the United States.

"We come from a lot of different parts of the country," Spc. Eric Dawson, a gunner for the brigade commander's personal security team said. "I'm from Oklahoma, Geraurd is from California, Frisbee is from Ohio and Leamy's from Alabama."

Though the four of them are in the same company, their work areas and job titles are as varied as their home towns.

"We don't get to hang out or talk much or at all during the day," Dawson said. "But at night when we come back to the barracks, it's like we are back at Fort Hood."

By Pfc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD

Racing up to an I-beam serving as a grind bar, command post operator and rookie skateboarder Spc. Joshua Frisbee of Headquarters Company, 5th Brigade Combat Team braces himself before executing a grind.

### Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

**Excuse me.  
AFwaan**

#### Monday

High: 108  
Low: 80



#### Tuesday

High: 110  
Low: 82



#### Wednesday

High: 112  
Low: 82



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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## News Notes



### Bush to Cut Forces in Europe and Asia

SIOUX CITY, Iowa (AP) — President Bush will shift about 70,000 military personnel from Europe and Asia. A significant proportion will come home, though it was not clear when. The decision is sure to be a politically popular one at a time when Bush has refused to offer a timetable for bringing troops home from Iraq. John Kerry said he would try to withdraw troops from Iraq within his first six months in office. That promise has drawn ridicule from Bush, who said it would encourage the enemy to wait out the United States. But it has also put pressure on the president at a time when the death toll on U.S. service members is approaching 1,000.

### Stones' Drummer has Throat Cancer

LONDON, (Reuters) — The Rolling Stones' 63-year-old drummer Charlie Watts is suffering from throat cancer but should recover after radiotherapy, a band spokesman said Saturday. Watts was diagnosed in June after a minor operation and is now reaching the end of his treatment at a London hospital, the spokesman said in a statement to British media. "He's expected to make a full recovery," he added.



## Lt. Col. Sent to Jail for Using Rank for Sex

► *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*  
CAMP VICTORY NORTH, Iraq — One of the top ranking officers in Arkansas' 39th Infantry Brigade began a 90-day jail sentence Saturday and faces dismissal from the U.S. Army after pleading guilty during a military court-martial to using his rank to coerce sex from subordinates.

Lt. Col. Fred Raymond "Ray" Sampson, 43, of Little Rock was charged July 13 with 24 violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. He was the brigade's operations officer and was removed from duty in mid-May when the investigation began.

One by one Saturday, Sampson tearfully pleaded guilty to all but seven of the 17 counts of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman. The other charges to which he pleaded guilty were related to fraternization with enlisted Soldiers, adultery and having sexual relations with a subordinate. He also pleaded guilty to one count of disobeying an order from a superior officer.

Sampson was taken by military police from the 39 BCT directly to a military prison at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, after the trial.

As Lt. Col. Robin Hall, judge advocate in the case, questioned Sampson about the allegations, which involve six different women, Sampson cried openly and dabbed at tears on his face with a blue bandana.

Sampson took the stand and asked in a weak, shaky voice that the court not confine him.

He said his actions



*Arkansas Democrat Gazette*

Lt. Col. Fred Sampson is led from the courthouse on Camp Victory North. Sampson was courtmarshalled Saturday for using rank for sex.

were "selfcentered. I was stupid."

The charges could have meant 38 years in federal prison, dismissal from the Army, forfeiture of pay and benefits, and a fine of more than \$2,000.

"The message should be clear," said Lt. Col. John Edwards, judge advocate officer for the brigade. "Improper sexual relations with subordinates will not be tolerated within this brigade."

Dismissal from the Army will result in the loss of all military benefits and pay, including medical coverage for himself and his family, and a retirement package that at age 60 would be worth more than \$2,000 a month, according to current calculations. He has had 23 years of military service — 10 years on active duty and 13 years in the Arkansas National Guard.

"He can't be buried in

the national cemetery, there will be no American flag issued at his funeral," Edwards said. "It will be as though he never served his nation."

Sampson waived his right to an Article 32 hearing in his case, which is similar to a civilian grand jury that reviews evidence to determine if charges should be filed.

He also waived his right to a jury panel in his court-martial, choosing instead to have his case heard only by a judge. Part of that decision came from an agreement Sampson made with the prosecution that limited his sentence, pending agreement of the judge advocate.

Within three days of the charges being filed, Sampson signed a plea agreement that would limit his jail time to 90 days and provide for his dismissal from the U.S. Army.

That agreement did not have to be accepted by the judge advocate in the military courtmartial, and after five hours of testimony, Hall, the military judge in the case, sentenced Sampson to six years and ordered him dismissed from the Army.

Under military law, the lesser sentence stands. Even though the judge sentenced Sampson to six years, he only has to serve 90 days because of the plea agreement.

While Sampson's jail time began with his conviction Saturday, his dismissal from the Army is not yet official. The final sentence and his dismissal must be approved by Maj. Gen. Pete Chairelli, commander of the 1st Cavalry Division.

## Softball, Basketball Teams Set to Defend Olympic titles

ATHENS, Greece (AP) - In the Mediterranean home of Olympic wrestling, a pair of born-in-the U.S.A. sports get their due Sunday: basketball and softball, where the long dominant Americans are determined to extend their gold medal streaks.

Version four of the hoops Dream Team - defined now as those NBA stars not sleeping back in the states - opens its gold medal defense against Puerto Rico. Since the Magic-Michael-Larry team

of 1992, when the Olympics began admitting professionals, the U.S. has swept to three straight golds without a loss.

Trying to keep pace is the women's softball team, looking for their third consecutive Olympic title. In just their second game in Greece, the Americans face their Olympic bete noir: the Australians.

The basketball team that arrived in Athens is much younger and more vulnerable than its predecessors. Coach Larry

Brown, fresh off winning the NBA title with the Detroit Pistons, will need the group to play beyond its years for his championship resume to expand.

A dozen years after U.S. basketball first shunned collegians, two of the Olympians are barely out of high school: LeBron James and Amare Stoudemire, who both spurned college and then won the NBA rookie of the year. Two other players, Carmelo Anthony and Dwayne Wade, just finished their first pro seasons.

The team's average age: 23. And they already have an ugly loss on their ledger, a 95-78 pre-Olympics thumping by Italy - the most one-sided defeat ever by an American team comprised of NBA players.

And then there are the women of the softball team, with four players who won their first gold medal when LeBron was a man of just 11.

In capturing the last two Olympic titles, the U.S. team has a 15-4 record in the Summer Games - but two of the defeats came to the Aussies in extra inning heartbreakers. This game could easily provide a preview of the medal round competition.

The Americans won their Saturday debut, shutting out Italy 7-0 behind pitcher Jennie Finch. Expects more emotion and fewer runs against the Australians; the Americans scored a 1-0 victory against them in the 2000 semifinals.



Getty Images

Jennie Finch throws a pitch Saturday. The star pitcher of the USA softball team threw three shutout innings against Italy. The American team downed the Italians 7-0 in their Olympic opener.

## Sports Shorts

### Michael Phelps Golden in 400

GREECE (Getty Images)-- Michael Phelps of the United States won his first gold medal Saturday, winning the 400-meter individual medley. Phelps is attempting to surpass the seven gold medals won by American swimmer Mark Spitz in the 1972 Munich Games.



### Olerud Helps Yanks Beat M's

SEATTLE (AP)-- John Olerud wasn't out for revenge against the Seattle Mariners. Olerud hit a tie-breaking, two-run single in the eighth inning against his former team, and the Yankees went on to beat the Mariners 6-4 Saturday. "I always felt I would be able to get it turned around," Olerud said of a season-long slump at the plate with the Mariners. "Fortunately, I've been able to get some big hits here."

### Dallas' Offense Struggles; Lose

HOUSTON (AP)-- The Houston Texans shutout the Dallas Cowboys 18-0. "I'm very disappointed," Cowboys' coach Bill Parcells said. "We played everyone and I got to look at a lot of players, and I've decided to spend more time with the guys that will be playing."